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SOLAR/1017-79/03

### Monthly Performance Report



FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT
MARCH 1979





National Solar Heating and Cooling Demonstration Program

National Solar Data Program

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### MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

### FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GAS COMPANY

### **MARCH 1979**

### I. SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

The Facilities Development Gas Company site is a three-story, multifamily condominium consisting of 31 units in San Diego, California. Solar energy is used for preheating domestic hot water (DHW) for the complex. The solar energy system has an array of flat-plate collectors with a gross area of 520 square feet. The array faces south at an angle of 42 degrees to the horizontal. Potable water is the transfer medium that delivers solar energy from the collector array to storage. Solar energy is stored underground in an insulated 1000-gallon glass-lined tank. Preheated water from the storage tank is supplied, on demand, to 31 conventional 52-gallon DHW tanks. When solar energy is insufficient to satisfy the hot water load, two electrical heating elements, energized separately within the individual DHW tanks, provide auxiliary energy for water heating. The system, shown schematically in Figure 1, has two modes of solar operation.

Mode 1 - Collector-to-Storage: This mode activates when the water temperature in the collectors is 9°F higher than the temperature of the storage tank. Water is pumped through the collectors and circulates back to storage until the temperature difference is 3°F or less.

Mode 2 - Storage-to-DHW Tank: This mode activates when there is a demand for hot water replenishment by the individual DHW tank. Water from storage circulates by thermosiphoning action through a supply service loop to the individual DHW tanks and returns through a service line to storage. The water in each DHW tank is maintained at an average temperature which is thermostatically controlled. When required, additional energy is supplied by an electrical auxiliary element.

### II. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

### INTRODUCTION

The site was occupied in March and the solar energy system operated continuously during the month. Solar energy satisfied 20 percent of the DHW requirements. The solar energy system provided electrical energy savings of 10.9 million Btu.

### WEATHER CONDITIONS

During the month, total incident solar energy on the collector array was 25.7 million Btu for a daily average of 1595 Btu per square foot. This was below the estimated average daily solar radiation for this geographical area

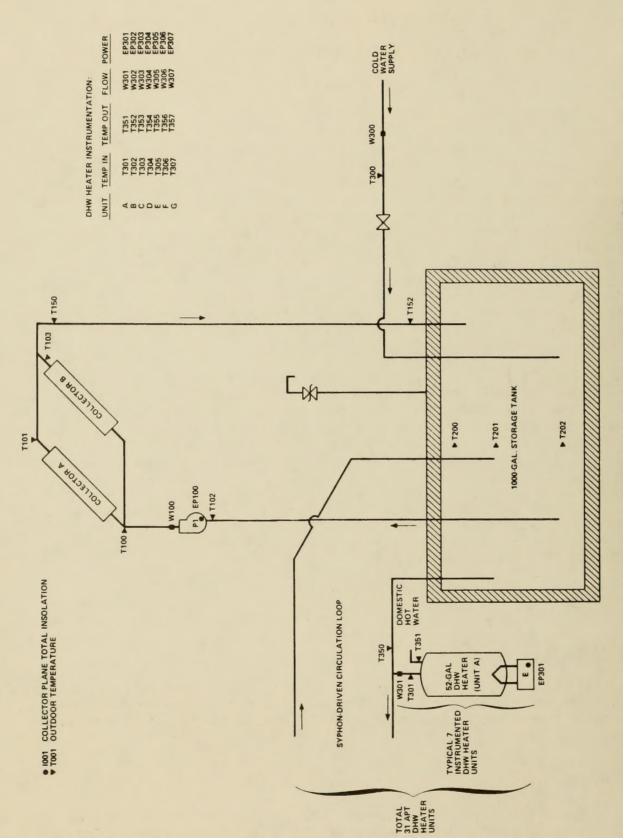


Figure 1. FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM SCHEMATIC

during March of 1892 Btu per square foot for a south-facing plane with a tilt of 42 degrees to the horizontal. The average ambient temperature during March was 57°F as compared with the long-term average for March of 58°F. The number of heating degree-days for the month (based on a 65°F reference) was 258, as compared with the long-term average of 219.

### THERMAL PERFORMANCE

System - During March the solar energy system performed approximately the same as expected. The expected performance was determined from a modified f-chart analysis using measured weather and subsystem loads as inputs. Solar energy collected was 12.2 million Btu versus an estimated 11.5 million Btu. Solar energy used by the system was estimated by assuming that all energy collected would be applied to the load. Actual solar energy used was 11.1 million Btu. System total solar fraction was 20 percent versus an estimated 20 percent.

Collector - The total incident solar radiation on the collector array for the month of March was 25.7 million Btu. During the period the collector loop was operating, the total insolation amounted to 23.2 million Btu. The total collected solar energy for the month of March was 12.2 million Btu, resulting in a collector array efficiency of 47 percent, based on total incident insolation. Solar energy delivered from the collector array to storage was 10.8 million Btu. Energy loss during transfer from the collector array to storage was 1.3 million Btu. This loss represented 11 percent of the energy collected. Operating energy required by the collector loop was 0.23 million Btu.

Storage - Solar energy delivered to storage was 10.8 million Btu. There were 11.1 million Btu delivered from storage to the DHW subsystem. There was no apparent energy loss from storage. The storage efficiency was 100 percent: This is calculated as the ratio of the sum of the energy removed from storage and the change in stored energy, to the energy delivered to storage. The average storage temperature for the month was 89°F.

 $\frac{\text{DHW Load}}{45.8 \text{ million}}$  - The DHW subsystem consumed 11.1 million Btu of solar energy and  $\frac{1}{45.8 \text{ million}}$  Btu of auxiliary electrical energy. The solar fraction of the hot water load was 20 percent. The hot water load was not determined. The DHW subsystem resulted in an electrical energy savings of 11.1 million Btu. A daily average of 1189 gallons of DHW was consumed.

### **OBSERVATIONS**

The collected solar energy, the collector loop operating energy, energy delivered to storage, solar energy used, and hot water consumed, were derived from overall solar energy system parameters. The auxiliary electrical energy used (representing the entire building) was extrapolated from the averages of seven instrumented apartment units.

The hot water load and the average value of the hot water temperature supplied to the building has not been determined because of inadequate instrumentation.

### ENERGY SAVINGS

The solar energy system provided a total electrical energy savings of 10.9 million Btu.

### III. ACTION STATUS

No action is required at this time.

# SOLAR HEATING AND CCCLING DEMCNSTRATICN PROGRAM

## SITE SUMMARY

SITE: FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GAS CCMPANY REPCRT PERICD: MARCH.1979

SOLAR/1017-79/03

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\* DENOTES UNAVAILABLE CATA & DENOTES NULL DATA N.A. DENCTES NOT APPLICABLE CATA REFERENCE: USER\*S GLIDE TO THE MONTHLY PERFORMANCE

USER\*S GLIDE TO THE MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL SCLAR DATA PROGRAM, FERRUARY 28,1978, SCLAR/0004-78/18

# SCLAR HEATING AND CCCLING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

### MENTHLY REPORT SITE SUMMARY

SOLAR/1017-79/03

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NT GAS CCNFA	ENT SCLAF SY ALL UNITS H FUMENTED. TH T CF GFCSS A TANK, INSUL
TIES DEVELCPMENT GAS CCMFANY C: March.1979	DESCRIPTION: ITTES DEVELCPMENT SCLAR SYSTEM PROVICES SERVICE HOT WATER TO 31 A CONDOMINIUM. ALL UNITS HAVE 52 GALLON ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS. THESE ARE INSTRUMENTED. THE ARRAY OF FLAT-PLATE COLLECTORS 520 SQUARE FEET CF GRCSS AREA. STORAGE IS PROVIDED BY A SINGLE. CN GLASS LINED TANK. INSULATED AND BURIED.
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USER'S GUIDE TO THE MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL SCLAF DATA FROGRAM, FEERUARY 28,1978, SCLAR/0004-78/18 REFERENCE:

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SCLAR HEATING AND CCCLING DEMCNSTRATION PROGRAM

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SCLAR HEATING AND COCLING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

## MONTHLY REPORT COLLECTOR ARRAY PERFORMANCE

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## SOLAR FEATING AND CCCLING DEMCNSTRATION PROGRAM

### PCNTHLY REPORT ENVISONMENTAL SURMARY

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